

Final Report of the LPNH Platform Committee

Enclosed is the Final Report of the Platform Committee established at the 2022 LPNH annual convention. Per the bylaws, the committee is producing a final report of our existing proposals that have made it to a Final form that could go before the delegates at the upcoming annual convention, currently scheduled for January 2023.

Each of these proposals has the unanimous support of the committee and all were voted on to be included in this final report.

These proposals are written in a “legislative markup” style, with new text in bold and removed text in [strikeout]. Effort was made to minimize the length of each proposal, so sections that remain unchanged are generally not included.

The list of Platform proposals:

Add 1.0 Individual Rights and Remove 1.6 No Collective-Based Rights

Remove plank 1.3 Voluntary Action

Replace plank 1.4 Monopoly & Oligopoly with 1.4 Marketplace Freedom

Add plank on Agorism

Amend 3.1 Criminal Justice and remove redundant planks on Vice and Sex Work

Amend 3.3 Death Penalty

Amend 3.7 Sovereignty & Independence

Platform Proposal – Add 1.0 Individual Rights and Remove 1.6 No Collective-Based Rights

Purpose: To add the plank 1.0 Individual Rights and remove plank 1.6 No Collective-Based Rights. The former is pulled from the national Libertarian Party platform and fulfills the same purpose of establishing that the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire recognizes individual rights and not collective rights.

Amend the platform as follows:

I. The Individual

1.0. Individual Rights

Individuals are inherently free to make choices for themselves and must accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make. Our support of an individual's right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices. No individual, group, or government may rightly initiate force against any other individual, group, or government. Libertarians reject the notion that groups have inherent rights. We support the rights of the smallest minority, the individual.

1.6. No Collective-Based Rights

~~Inasmuch as we believe the origin of all rights to be Individual Natural Rights, we wish to reaffirm individual rights and reject any misguided attempts to supplant individual rights with collectivist-based rights. We reject any policy, law, movement, or philosophy which would attempt to usurp or marginalize one's natural individual rights with any so-called group-based rights. Rights of a group are no more or no less than the sum of their individual rights.~~

Platform Proposal – Remove plank 1.3 Voluntary Action

Purpose: Due to clerical error or intention, platform plank 1.3 Voluntary Action has duplicate language to plank 1.2 Self Ownership. This proposal is to remove the plank entirely.

Delete the following text:

I. The Individual

1.3. Voluntary Action

~~We recognize that individuals own their bodies and have exclusive rights over them which other individuals can not exercise. We do not believe that individuals, groups, or governments may ever legitimately claim ownership of other individuals. To these ends, we reject and oppose all laws which allow for the subjugation of individuals by other individuals or groups without just cause or due process.~~

Platform Proposal – Replace plank 1.4 Monopoly & Oligopoly with 1.4 Marketplace Freedom

Purpose: While the platform is intended to provide an overview of the values on which members of the party stand for, this plank makes economic assertions more appropriate for other party literature. It is proposed to replace this plank with the national Libertarian Party platform plank on Marketplace Freedom, which prioritizes libertarian belief in separation of business and state.

Amend the platform as follows:

II. The Market

2.4. Monopoly & Oligopoly

~~We believe free markets drive economic growth and that competition is essential to free markets. Economic monopolies and oligopolies are inconsistent with the nature of free markets. Both state and corporate monopolies stifle innovation, competition, and service in all segments of the market. Monopolies and oligopolies cannot exist without the protection granted or afforded to them by the state and therefore we advocate for the repeal of all laws that enable such collusion and racketeering to exist.~~

2.4. Marketplace Freedom

Libertarians support free markets. We defend the right of individuals to form commercial enterprises based on voluntary association. We oppose all forms of government subsidies and bailouts to business, labor, or any other special interest. Government should not compete with private enterprise. We reject government charter of corporations. We call for a separation of business and state.

Platform Proposal – Add plank on Agorism

Purpose: A proposed plank to the national Libertarian Platform at the 2022 convention was to affirm the right to engage in agorist activities. Given that the Free State is the premiere example of agorism in practice, this proposal adds that same plank to the platform of the state party.

Add the following text:

II. The Market

2.11. Agorism

We affirm the right to subvert state controls through black and gray market activity, so long as such activity does not violate individual rights and liberties through theft, fraud, or violence.

Platform Proposal – Amend 3.1 Criminal Justice and remove redundant planks on Vice and Sex Work

Purpose: The existing state party plank on Criminal Justice takes a very moderate monarchist approach to the subject, while the current national party platform plank on Criminal Justice takes a more radical approach while still being agnostic to monarchism and anarchism. The national party plank also renders the existing state party planks on Vice and Sex Work redundant. The proposal is to replace the text of 3.1 Criminal Justice with the wording from the national platform plank, and remove planks 2.9 Vice and 2.10 Sex Work as the wording of new 3.1 covers both subjects effectively. Other topics included in the vice planks, such as state liquor stores and state lottery, are topics more appropriate for other party literature.

Amend the platform as follows:

II. The Market

2.9. Vice

~~We oppose all laws and regulations that attempt to protect individuals from the consequences of their own behavior and support their repeal. All those presently incarcerated or ever convicted solely for the commission of victimless crimes should be pardoned and their records expunged. We oppose the state monopoly on the sale of liquor as well as licensing and regulation on the use, possession, sale, distribution, and production of beer, wine, and spirits. We favor the decriminalization and deregulation of gambling and the allowance of private competition to the state administered lottery. We favor the decriminalization and elimination of restrictions and regulations concerning the use, possession, sale, distribution, and production of cannabis and other scheduled drugs.~~

2.10. Sex Work

~~We oppose the state criminalizing consensual contracts between adults. We assert the right of consenting adults to provide sexual services to clients for compensation and the right of clients to purchase sexual services from consenting sex workers.~~

III. The Community

3.1. Criminal Justice

~~Where criminal statutes are necessary for the protection of life, liberty and property, the punishments applied should be proportionate to the crime. Rehabilitation, counseling, and restitution should be sought over incarceration. Offenders should have the opportunity to make the aggrieved party whole, rather than continue to place a drain on society. Ineffective and detrimental incarceration is costly in terms of wasted human potential, as well as tax dollars which are diverted from productive private use.~~

3.1. Criminal Justice

Government force must be limited to the protection of the rights of individuals to life, liberty, and property, and governments must never be permitted to violate these rights. Laws should be limited in their application to violations of the rights of others through force or fraud, or to deliberate actions that place others involuntarily at significant risk of harm. Therefore, we favor the repeal of all laws creating “crimes” without victims, such as gambling, the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, and consensual transactions involving sexual services. We support restitution to the victim to the fullest degree possible at the expense of the criminal or the negligent wrongdoer. The constitutional rights of the criminally accused, including due process, a speedy trial, legal counsel, trial by jury, and the legal presumption of innocence until proven guilty, must be preserved. We assert the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law. We oppose the prosecutorial practice of “over-charging” in criminal prosecutions so as to avoid jury trials by intimidating defendants into accepting plea bargains. Additionally, we support the abolition of qualified immunity so that law enforcement and prosecutors would be held legally accountable for misconduct that leads to wrongful convictions or other acts of injustice.

Platform Proposal – Amend 3.3 Death Penalty

Purpose: The wording of this plank is deferential to the cult of the omnipotent state. The proposed replacement language comes from the national Libertarian Party platform.

Amend the platform as follows:

III. The Community

3.3. Death Penalty

~~We recognize that the justice system is imperfect and subject to human error. The possibility of taking an innocent life means there are insufficient moral grounds to justify the use of the death penalty and we oppose its use by the state.~~

3.3. Death Penalty

We oppose the administration of the death penalty by the state.

Platform Proposal – Amend 3.7 Sovereignty & Independence

Purpose: The wording of this plank is not grammatically correct in parts, and the excessive use of double negatives makes it difficult for the point of the plank to be brought forward effectively. Due to its similarity to the national plank on Self-Determination, the proposed amendment plank includes wording from both the national party plank and the original state party plank.

Amend the platform as follows:

III. The Community

3.7. Sovereignty & Independence

~~Government being instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security, of the whole community, and not for the private interest or emolument of any one man, family, or class of men; therefore, whenever the ends of government are perverted, and public liberty manifestly endangered, and all other means of redress are ineffectual, the people may, and of right ought to reform the old, or establish a new government. Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of individual liberty, it is the right of the people to alter, abolish, or withdraw from it, and to agree to such new governance, or none, as to them shall seem most likely to protect their liberty. The doctrine of nonresistance against arbitrary power, and oppression, is absurd, slavish, and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind.~~ The people of New Hampshire have the sole and exclusive right to govern themselves as sovereign, free, and independent individuals. ~~Exercise of this right, like the exercise of all other rights, does not remove legal and moral obligations not to violate the rights of others. Exercise of this right does not require permission from others.~~